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issue 40, volume 82 www.newbuffalotimes.com Thursday, October 5, 2023

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PHOTO OF JOANNE AND IAN ARE A WONDERFUL REMINDER OF THE FRIENDLY SMALL-TOWN LIVING MOMENTS AT BARNEYS MARKET IN NEW BUFFALO BY K. FATOUROS

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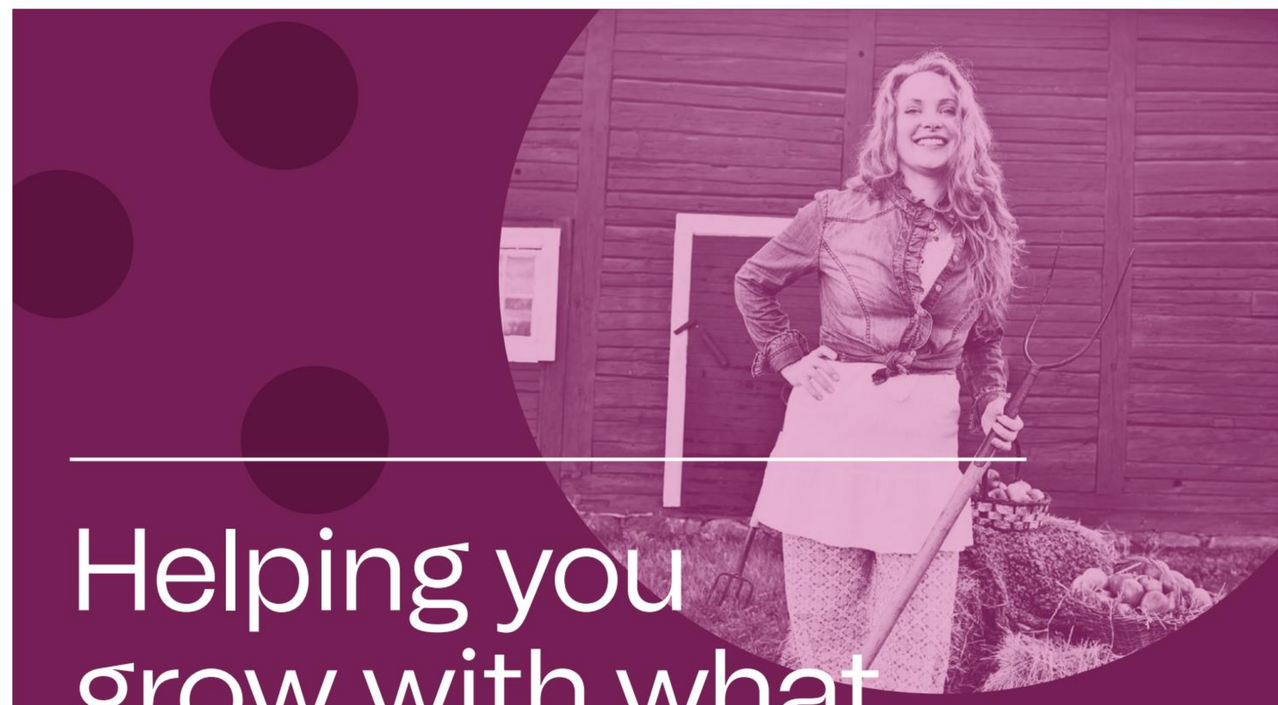

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Periodical Postage paid in
New Buffalo, MI. Postmaster,
please send address changes to

NEW BUFFALO TIMES
PO BOX 369, New Buffalo, MI 49117

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PUBLICATION NUMBER 377960
CIRCULATION 5,000+ WEEKLY

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Town halls on New Buffalo-Bridgman Transmission Line project on tap for next week

In partnership with local officials, I&M invites community members and landowners in the New Buffalo-Bridgman Transmission LIne Rebuild project area to attend one of two below question and answer forums: Monday, Oct. 9, at Chikaming Township Center, 13535 Red Arrow Highway in Harbert and Tuesday, Oct. 10, at Three Oaks Elementary School Gymnasium, 100 Oak Street in Three Oaks.

Both events will begin at 6:30 p.m. and doors will open at 5:30 p.m. Due to venue capacity limitations, the community is encouraged to attend the meetings virtually via Zoom. Both Zoom meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. Attendees may join beginning at 6:15 p.m. For Zoom details and website links, visit www.IndianaMichiganPower.com/NewBuffalo-Bridgman.

According to a press release, based on important feedback garnered at a June open house in Berrien County and additional field studies, I&M will adjust plans to rebuild a high voltage line from New Buffalo to Bridgman. The reliability enhancement project would upgrade 21 miles of 69-kilovolt high voltage transmission lines. The transmission line from New Buffalo to Bridgman provides power to four local substations. A stronger transmission grid benefits customers who receive power from these substations, including the Village of Three Oaks, Chikaming Township, Harbert and Shorewood Hills areas.

In the last five years, 20 outages have occurred in the area, sometimes leaving customers without service for extended periods of time. The majority of existing wooden poles date back to the 1960s. Proactively replacing those wooden poles and wires with modern equipment, along with removing vegetation near the transmission line improves reliability for customers and will reduce the need for frequent maintenance, lessen the likelihood of power outages and speed restoration if an outage occurs.

After reviewing community feedback, additional field studies, engineering, environmental and community impacts, the project team will adjust the plan to include building approximately 75-foot-tall steel or wooden poles along the route, about 10 feet shorter than originally planned; acquiring or defining easements to approximately 40-feet-wide (about 20 feet on either side of the pole), about 20-feet less than originally proposed; offering reimbursement for removal of trees on private property within the proposed easement and allowing new tree plantings outside of the easement area.

Indiana Michigan Power (I&M) is headquartered in Fort Wayne, and its approximately 2,000 employees serve more than 600,000 customers. More than 80% of its energy delivered in 2022 was emission-free. I&M has at its availability various sources of generation, including 2,278 MW of nuclear generation in Michigan, 450 MW of purchased wind generation from Indiana, more than 22 MW of hydro generation in both states and approximately 35 MW of large-scale solar generation in both states. The company's generation portfolio also includes 1,497 MW of coal-fueled generation.

AEP's approximately 17,000 employees operate and maintain the nation's largest electricity transmission system and more than 225,000 miles of distribution lines to safely deliver reliable and affordable power to 5.6 million regulated customers in 11 states. AEP also is one of the nation's largest electricity producers with approximately 30,000 megawatts of diverse generating capacity, including more than 7,000 megawatts of renewable energy. The company's plans include growing its renewable generation portfolio to approximately 50% of total capacity by 2032. AEP is on track to reach an 80% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions from 2005 levels by 2030 and has committed to achieving net zero by 2045. AEP's family of companies includes utilities AEP Ohio, AEP Texas, Appalachian Power (in Virginia and West Virginia), AEP Appalachian Power (in Tennessee), Indiana Michigan Power, Kentucky Power, Public Service Company of Oklahoma, and Southwestern Electric Power Company (in Arkansas, Louisiana, east Texas and the Texas Panhandle). AEP also owns AEP Energy, which provides innovative competitive energy solutions nationwide.

For more information, visit www.aep.com. — **STAFF REPORTS**

Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.
— Aristotle

Local Government Meetings

New Buffalo Times

Democracy Requires Transparency

CITY OF NEW BUFFALO
JOHN HUMPHREY, MAYOR
CITY COUNCIL
MARK ROBERTSON, ROGER LIJESKI, JOHN HUMPHREY, BRIAN FLANAGAN, VANCE PRICE
City Council meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30PM
CITY OF NEW BUFFALO PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 5:30PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP BOARD
PETE RAHM, MICHELLE HEIT, JUDY H. ZABICKI, PATTY IAZZETTO, JACK ROGERS
Board meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 4PM
NEW BUFFALO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM
SHERIFF BERRIEN COUNTY
L. Paul Bailey, Sheriff
Chuck Heit, Undersheriff
NEW BUFFALO AREA RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY
Meets at 10AM on the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (odd) at New Buffalo Township Hall, 17425 Red Arrow Highway New Buffalo
NEW BUFFALO AREA SCHOOLS BOARD
LISA WERNER, JOHN HASKINS, DENISE CHURCHILL, BRADLEY BURNER, VANESSA THUN, STEPHEN DONNELLY, GREG VOSBERG
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP BOARD
DAVID BUNTE, PAULA DUDIAK, LIZ RETTIG, RICHARD SULLIVAN, BILL MARSKE
Chikaming Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM
CHIKAMING TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
Meets on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM
THREE OAKS
THREE OAKS TOWNSHIP BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7PM

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS BOARD
Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
GRAND BEACH
Meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7PM
MARY ROBERTSON, CLERK
HARRY WALDER BLAKE O'HALLORAN, JAMES BRACEWELL, PETER DOERR, EDWARD BRANDES

MICHIANA
VILLAGE OF MICHIANA COUNCIL
Meets on the 2nd Friday of each month at 1PM

Truce reached in fierce political battle

BY STAN MADDUX

What could be viewed as a Civil War in La Porte County government for nearly three years could be over.

The La Porte County Commissioners Wednesday, Oct. 4, unanimously approved a Memorandum of Understanding with La Porte County Auditor Tim Stabosz, who signed the agreement.

Under the MOU, Stabosz agrees to pay the amount of money still owed to former county attorney Shaw Friedman and pay Friedman for future legal work that he performs for county government as an outside contractor in no less than 30 days.

Stabosz can take longer than 30 days to pay but only under certain conditions.

La Porte County Attorney Scott Pejic said the agreement is non-binding but expressed hope Stabosz will live up to the terms.

"I'm optimistic going forward that this will solve a lot of issues with this one vendor," he said.

Friedman has been given some legal work to perform as an outside contractor since he was ousted as county attorney in early January.

La Porte County Commissioner Rich Mrozinski alleged Stabosz agreed to the terms under pressure the commissioners might take legal action requesting his early removal from office.

Stabosz denied he felt intimidated to agree to the MOU, citing one prior failed attempt seeking his early removal.

Mrozinski said he also wouldn't be surprised if Stabosz violates the terms judging by his previous confrontational behavior.

Commission President Connie Gramarossa also said she doesn't trust Stabosz to live up to his bargain outlined in the MOU but warned him the commissioners will go after him "two fold" if he fails to live up to the terms.

She expressed concerns that Stabosz might be late in paying other contractors, claiming a few attorneys and a construction firm are still waiting for their late payments.

"Are we going to have go into an MOU with every single vendor that he does not pay," she said.

Pejic said he will do everything he can for that not to happen.

Gramarossa then blasted Stabosz verbally when he began interrupting her while speaking, which led to a verbal exchange.

"Excuse me. I am trying to run a meeting here. Mr. Secretary, please," she said.

"Mr. Auditor," he said.

"You are a secretary here. You are here in the capacity as our secretary," she said.

"Thank you for the lecture, ma'am," he said.

Pejic urged the commissioners to enter into the agreement with Stabosz to try and put an end to the extreme political fighting that overshadows the positive work that's occurring.

"I think the county would be of great benefit, including all of ourselves and our mental health, that we can move forward and just concentrate on the good work that we do and let the public know the good work that all of us do individually and together," he said.

The MOU does not request Stabosz pay Friedman for money tied to work Stabosz claims was performed outside the scope of his former duties as county attorney.

The roughly $10,000 amount owed is tied up in a still undecided lawsuit filed by Friedman, who alleges payment is being withheld by Stabosz because of his personal and political dislike for him.

Stabosz revealed a settlement is a possibility in that legal action.

I know a compound interest "machine" when I see one.
— Dino N. Fatouros

MHS' animal care staff reflects on pets that are gone

Luminaries are lit by MHS' animal care staff

Leila Ait-Larbi and Gwen Johnson hang out with Baby, who's up for adoption

Dominick Adduci hangs out his pit bull Emily Grace

MHS Executive Director Johanna Humbert recites a prayer for the animals

Pets and their humans honor the pets they've lost

Dogs socialize before the ceremony

Luminaries honor pets who are gone

Michelle Planky hugs Sugar while Lisa Ledenbach looks on

MHS honors its 10th year of 'Remember Me Thursday'

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Working in an animal shelter, members of the staff at the Michiana Humane Society (MHS) encounter people every day who have grieved the loss of a pet.

"We look at your photos, we hear your stories, we know your fierce love for your companions," Johanna Humbert, executive director of MHS, said to the crowd that had gathered in front of the shelter for Remember Me Thursday Thursday, Sept. 28.

Being with others who are versed in the grieving process, though, peels back the curtain of sadness.

It was 10 years ago when MHS started honoring Remember Me Thursday with a candlelight ceremony.

"A number of you were with us back in 2014 and we are so happy to see you coming back year after year for a quiet, comforting evening," Humbert said.

According to its website, the day is held to "share the importance of pet adoption, and shine a light on all orphan pets waiting in shelters and rescues."

"Since its inception in 2013, 'Remember Me Thursday' has made more than 2 billion impressions on social media," the website states.

At MHS, guests were invited to purchase a luminary for $5, with proceeds going to the shelter, in honor of a pet they've lost. This year, Humbert said that there were around 600 luminaries.

Members of the animal care staff then walk amongst the rows of luminaries, lighting the candles in each one.

"With the current overcrowding across the country, shelters are pushed to our limits...The stress of caring for so many animals just intensifies any losses that we have so tonight, we especially honor our animal care staff and volunteers for making it through day to day and coming back to work tomorrow - they are the true friends to the animals," Humbert said.

MHS, which is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that cares for 1,000 or so animals each year and has a 98% live release rate, continues to make great strides in its care for animals.

At the end of August, a veterinarian, Dr. Johanna Nimeth, who worked at Arbor View Animal Hospital in Valparaiso for 10-15 years, was hired to come twice a week to work with shelter animals. In the past, Humbert said, scheduling for when a shelter animal had to get transported to a clinic and waiting for that to happen had to occur.

She added that this was made all the more difficult because private veterinarians are busy and "if we have anything slightly complex and they have to go to a private veterinarian, we might have to wait weeks to get an appointment."

"It's amazing how quickly we can process our animals through when the vet's right here in house - if a dog is surrendered to us on Monday and it's basically healthy, she can do a spay neuter surgery on Wednesday and the dog's available for adoption before the weekend," she said.

The previous day, Nimeth did 10 spays and neuters, which included two rabbits and a bunch of cats. That day, she came in early before the ceremony and took care of a cat that had Pyometra.

"It's really going to change how we do health care for animals," Humbert said.

At the Cocktails at the Grand Cottage, MHS's biggest fundraiser, this past July, the Fund a Paws portion, during which guests can make a direct donation to the shelter, raised funds for an ultrasound and dental table. MHS has an ultrasound and should have the dental table in place by the end of the year.

For more on MHS and view pets that are up for adoption, visit michianapets.org. The shelter is located at 722 Indiana Highway 212 in Michigan City.

More wins for Lady Bison who lose again to Mustangs

BY STAN MADDUX

The New Buffalo High School girls' volleyball team, after taking River Valley to the brink last week, lost again to the Mustangs a few days later in a weekend competition.

However, the Lady Bison (13-8-2) also had victories against four teams from other schools.

The latest win for New Buffalo came Monday, Oct. 2, at Berrien Springs 25-14, 26-24 and 25-19.

Jane Funk with 10 kills led a well balanced offensive attack consisting of eight kills from Benita Puskunigus, 11 aces combined from Meagan Fatter, Colleen Chlystun, Riley Tertel and Ava Johnson and 30 assists from Johnson.

Tertel and Josie Humphrey led the defense with 13 and 12 digs respectively.

On Sept. 27, New Buffalo lost to River Valley at home in five sets but responded with a four set win the next day against Bangor.

Head coach Bruce Molineaux said he used the game against a weaker opponent to get his bench players more time on the court.

The Lady Bison easily won the first two sets but following a third set loss the starters returned to the floor and took the match in the final set 25-8.

"We took care of business," he said.

Funk led the offense with 12 kills while Johnson recorded 26 assists.

On defense, Fatter led the way with 12 digs.

New Buffalo and the Lady Mustangs played again in a September 30 competition at River Valley with two other schools.

River Valley won the first set 30-28 then easily defeated the Lady Bison in the second and final set to take the match.

"They got our number at the moment. We can't quite get over the hump on them," said Molineaux.

New Buffalo also defeated Decatur and Paw Paw rather easily in the tourney.

"It was a pretty good week considering the only losses we had were to River Valley," he said.

Molineaux said fewer mistakes and more of a killer instinct remain the only things keeping his very competitive team from reaching the next level.

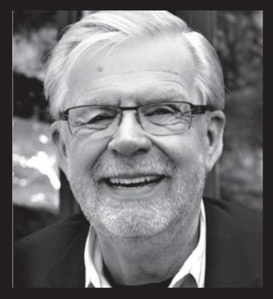
He hopes his players narrow the gap over the next few weeks to go deep and even have a shot at winning the conference and district tournaments.

"It's like in football. You're there but then you throw an interception in the end zone. You're there until you make that mistake," he said.

If you look good, you feel good, if you feel good, you play good, if you play good, they pay good.
— Deion Sanders

SPORTS

From the Bleachers



COLUMN BY KURT MARGGRAF IN CHICAGO

This song has been haunting me all day.

Frank Sinatra sang, *One day you turn around, and it's summer / next day you turn around, and it's fall / And the springs and the winters of a lifetime / Whatever happened to them all.*

Today, the Major League Baseball regular season came to an end. I've been around for many, many season ending baseball games and like the vast majority of those seasons, Chicago doesn't have a representative in the playoffs, but that doesn't mean that there aren't reasons for optimism on both sides of town.

The White Sox changed some things at the executive level and this off-season should see a few changes to the roster. With a new man making the decisions on who to keep, who to trade, who to draft, and who should coach at every level of the organization, next year should be far better than this year. The Sox have a lot of good individual players that just didn't mesh as a team, so the players they trade should be able to get quality players in return. Hopefully, the new players will fit together better, and the Sox will turn it around.

On the other side of town, the Cubs just missed the playoffs, and some will consider this a disappointing season.

Not me, I'm happy that they worked so hard, competed so valiantly, and made such progress as a team. The team has great leadership and the farm system is just starting to produce players who are ready to play in the big leagues.

Before this season, I was not happy with the Cubs front office, but almost all of the players they traded weren't very good this season and some of the youngsters they acquired look like they will soon be stars. As far as I'm concerned, the team only has to do two or three things to make the playoffs next season.

First and foremost, they must sign a superstar. They have one on their team already in Cody Bellinger and he seems to love playing in Chicago. If the Cubs can re-sign Bellinger and add a couple of arms in the bullpen, including a closer, they should be in good shape, it's going to be an interesting off-season for both teams.

Another Chicago team's season came to an end Sunday, at least as far as being a playoff team.

The Bears lost to the Denver Broncos, a team that gave up 70 points and lost by 50 last week. They came out fighting and built up a big half time lead before inexplicably falling apart in the second half.

Questionable coaching decisions contributed to the loss and Bears fans, who expected much better, are jumping off the bandwagon in droves. Although they are only four games in to a 17 game season, the Bears' season seems to be down the drain for the second consecutive year.

Neil Young said, "It's better to burn out than to fade away."

Be kind. Talk to you next week. Peace, love, and happiness.

Disappointing loss for Raiders in low scoring game

BY STAN MADDUX

The Red Arrow Raiders fell to 4-2 in the high school football season in a Friday, Sept. 29, game that was dominated by defense.

The Raiders, which consists of players from New Buffalo and River Valley high schools, lost on the road to the Twin City Sharks 18-8.

The offensive struggles for the Raiders came as a surprise considering the team scored 252 points combined in their previous contests.

However, the troubles moving the ball could be explained at least partially by losing quarterback Ethan Lijewski midway through the second quarter with a pulled groin muscle.

Lijewski completed just one pass out of five attempts for three yards prior to leaving the game.

His replacement, Ryder Wolnik, had just five yards passing on one completed pass out of 10 attempts.

The Sharks also stopped the Raiders' potent running attack by holding Lijewski to just 41 yards on nine carries.

It took 14 carries for Wolnik to pick up 60 yards on the ground, while Owen Slavens and M'Nason Smothers combined for 136 yards on 23 carries.

It was the first game back for Wolnik in four weeks following a knee injury.

The only touchdown for the Raiders came from an 80 yard drive early in the third quarter to pull to within 12-8.

There were no other scores until the Sharks, with 19 seconds left on the clock, scored from a long gain on a rushing play.

Head coach Matt Johnson said he felt the offense should have scored more points but had trouble multiple times putting the ball into the end zone once inside the 20-yard line of the Sharks.

"We had some more red zone opportunities but couldn't capitalize. Credit to Twin City for a good game plan and playing with a sense of urgency," he said.

Johnson blamed the loss on giving up big plays from missed tackles and blown pass coverage along with confusion on offense by the different looks the Sharks presented on defense.

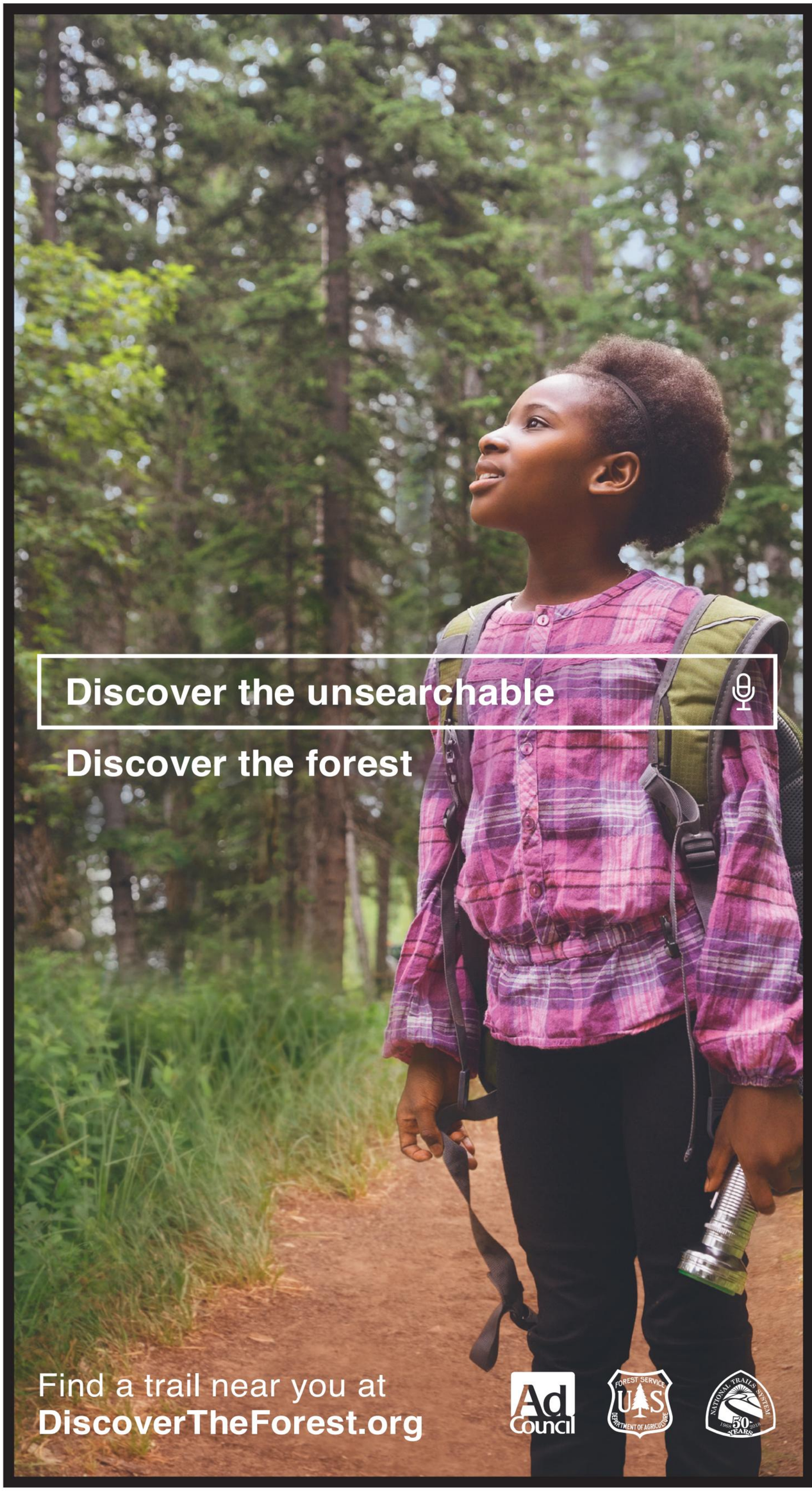
On defense, the Sharks were able to commit more players to stopping the run after Lijewski and his talented passing arm left the game.

"We just had mental breakdowns on two plays. That's how they got their 12 points. We just didn't play a good game all around," he said.

Wolnik led the defense with seven tackles with four of those resulting in loss of yardage. Payton Lijewski had six tackles while David Nicely had five tackles, including one for lost yardage.

Wolnik and Nicely each had one sack, while Jordan Serrano had an interception.

The Twin City Sharks, compromised of players from Our Lady of the Lake, Michigan Lutheran and Countryside Academy, were limited to 112 yards passing from four completions on 18 attempts along with 175 yards rushing on 24 carries.



SCHOLASTICS

New Buffalo physics students construct courtyard solar charging station

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

Students at New Buffalo High School have turned to harnessing solar energy to power up their technology outside of the classroom.

Science and smart lab teacher Richard Eberly said that students in the physics class are designing and engineering a solar charging station for the courtyard.

"So when students go out to work if their computers die or their phones need to be charged, they can plug it right in and charge it off solar energy in the courtyard," he said.

Students will be able to use Fusion 360 and print off large blueprints of what they're constructing.

"So if the school district wants another one in the future we'll have all the measurements - this is a prototype to see how it works," he said.

Richard Eberly guides the students on the station's construction

Alice Morris and Benita Puskunijis work on the station's construction

The design process of how to build the array in advance involved ensuring that there's a metal pipe in the middle so there's support and it can't get shaken around..

Senior Izzy Moser said students sat around, throwing out ideas for how the charging station could work.

"It needs to be facing the sun, it needs to be in an area where there's no shaded coverage, so we decided we were going to do it in the place of one of the umbrellas at the picnic table," she said.

Eberly threw other questions at the students: How were they going to connect the pipes? How were they going to structure it so that the solar panels actually fit?

Several measurements also needed to be made. Senior Jack Lantz has been using electric calipers to measure the internal diameter of the PVC pipe.

"This inner thicker part, because there's no tool to really get in there, we can use a caliper, which is a more advanced type of super precise measurement thing," he said.

Lantz said he sticks the caliper inside the pipe and that he can find measurements in three different areas.

"We had to find this because all the pipe, it would be too long if we didn't account for this middle part in the center...There's just been a lot of mechanical engineering issues that we've had to solve," he said.

Eberly said the unit will be held at a 45 degree angle facing the south above the table. The angle was determined by the latitude of where they are on the plant.

The array, which is almost the exact size of the picnic table (which has a little different shape) will be above the table.

"It'll act like a tent over the table and the unit will be mounted in the middle at an angle so that it'll be 45," Eberly said.

Eberly said he conceived the idea to build the solar charging station from radio teacher Brian Schiller, who spotted solar powered charging stations on a recent trip to Western Michigan University.

Students came up with a budget for the project and gave a proposal on the components that were needed.

"We like to use the same engineering model we heard about at the University of Michigan where the kids have to have exactly the right number of components and exactly the right building material listed," he said.

NEW BUFFALO SENIOR NAMED 'COMMENDED STUDENT' IN NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

New Buffalo High School senior Jack Lantz has been named a Commended Student in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program.

A Letter of Commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC^), which conducts the program, will be presented by New Buffalo High School Principal Tracy Ripley to Lantz.

According to a press release, about 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise. Although they will not continue in the 2024 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, Commended Students placed among the top 50,000 students who entered the 2024 competition by taking the 2022 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQTR).

"Those being named Commended Students have demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success," said a spokesperson for NMSC. "These students represent a valuable national resource; recognizing their accomplishments, as well as the key role their schools play in their academic development, is vital to the advancement of educational excellence in our nation.

"We hope that this recognition will help broaden their educational opportunities and encourage them as they continue their pursuit of academic success."

Ripley said that Lantz had a nearly perfect SAT score, which "has qualified him for this prestigious recognition."

"He received a perfect score on the Verbal / English (800) and a nearly perfect score on Math (770). I believe he missed three questions. These scores not only are a testament to Jack's outstanding achievement but also to the staff at NBHS for their amazing teaching abilities," she said. — STAFF REPORTS

Dunes Arts Summer Theatre to conclude 2023 season with autumn gala, 'A Taste of Old Hollywood'

Dunes Arts Summer Theatre will hold an autumn gala in support of The Dunes Arts Foundation, "A Taste of Old Hollywood," from 6 to 10 p.m. CST Saturday, Oct. 21, at Pottawattomie Country Club, located at 1900 Springland Avenue in Michigan City.

"The Dunes' Theatre building was built in 1941 with a big dream to bring a taste of Hollywood to Michigan City," said artistic director Steve Scott. "Seventy-two years later, we have a lot to celebrate. In addition to audience and critical acclaim for this summer's three major productions, our Broadway Cabaret, our first-ever New Plays Festival, and our new affiliations with the Safe Harbor program for children and the Holdcraft Center, we have grown our series of classes for pre-teens and teenagers. A Taste of Old Hollywood will celebrate all of this while looking forward to an even more successful season in 2024."

Kicking off with cocktails and dinner, the evening's entertainment will be hosted by master of ceremonies DJ Isaac and will include live band and dance performances inspired by the Classic Hollywood era, which will showcase dancer and choreographer Emmie Riegel. Raffles and a live auction will take place to raise additional funds for The Dunes Arts Foundation. Guests are encouraged to dress as their favorite Classic Hollywood actors (optional). To purchase gala tickets ($150) or sponsorship packages, call (219) 879-7509 or visit www.dunesarts.org.

The Dunes Arts Foundation, which operates Dunes Arts Summer Theatre and Education Programs, was incorporated in the State of Indiana in 1951 and is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Nestled within the woodsy dunes of Michiana Shores, Dunes Summer Theatre is located at about a half mile from the Indiana Dunes and the Lake Michigan shore at 288 Shady Oak Drive in Michigan City. As northwest Indiana's longest-running summer theater program, Dunes Summer Theatre has provided professional theater productions for more than seven decades. This one-of-a-kind experience is a highlight of Harbor Country's cultural fabric, promoting community spirit and embracing inclusivity, diversity and accessibility in all areas of operations. — STAFF REPORTS

TOWN SQUARE

LETTERS TO THE *NEW BUFFALO TIMES*:

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New Buffalo Times
LOCAL INTELLIGENCE
— SINCE 1942 —

BE OUR GUEST...

As you may know, AEP/I&M is intending to replace our wooden transmission poles across a 21 mile stretch with gunmetal grey steel structures of 3x the girth and 1.5x the current height of the poles, clearing the right of way on either side of the new poles and removing a large swath of trees in the bargain.

An extension of the Bridgman 'Transmission Line Rebuild' project, this planned 'rebuild' has met with concern from more than 1,000 residents, who ask that AEP/I&M engage with our community to explore possible options to the proposed structure and timeline.

While AEP/I&M hosted an Open House at Weko beach in June to address our concerns, many who attended found the presentation to be perplexing and ineffective. AEP/I&M have reverted with minor project modifications that fail to acknowledge the concerns voiced by our community.

On Monday October 9th (Chikaming) and Tuesday October 10th (Three Oaks), representatives from AEP/I&M will host two (in-person/virtual) town hall meetings to address pre-submitted questions based on input from our community, and an open forum to respond to questions from the audience.

We invite you to add your voice to the conversation. AEP/I&M have promised to answer questions from both the in-person and Zoom audiences. Space is limited in Chikaming, and we recommend attending via Zoom.

This 'rebuild' project, if implemented, will forever change the character of our community. Join us in hearing why AEP/I&M claims this project needs to happen, what costs and benefits we may anticipate, and what alternatives exist to deliver reliable power to our community while preserving its character.

For more information, please refer to www.aep-transmission.com/michigan/newBuffalo-bridgman, for details about in-person and virtual participation at these town hall meetings on October 9 and 10, 2023.

— PROTECT OUR TOWNSHIPS ALLIANCE

Beers, brats and more at first 'Oaktoberfest'

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA / PHOTOS BY THERESE DONNELLY

Three Oaks welcomed the month of October with a festive bang during its first Oaktoberfest, which was held at American Legion Post 204 Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 30-Oct. 1.

Guests could enjoy a sampling of German cuisine, such as sausages from Drier's Meat Market, German potato salad and sauerkraut, as well as sample Oktoberfest style beers from three different breweries: River Saint Joe, Ghost Isle Brewery and Transient Artisan Ales. The three breweries competed in the Oaktoberfest's head-to-head Battle of the Brewmasters, with Ghost Isle Brewery being declared the winner.

While enjoying their brews, guests enjoyed live music. Children worked off their energy at a carnival outside the legion.

Oaktoberfest benefited the River Valley Mustang Foundation, a volunteer, nonprofit organization consisting of parents and educators that supports River Valley Schools in Three Oaks.

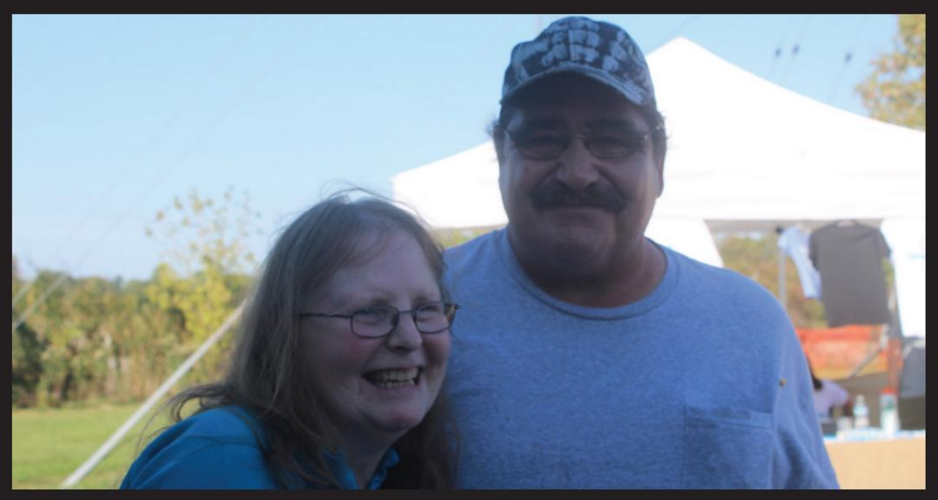
Volunteers serving up beers

Resurrection Band

Jamie Kiefer, Tommy Moran, Meghan Collins and Jack Collins

Jen Kerr and Rachel Jacobs

Ninel Pompushko and Denise Plumb of T-Shirt Deli



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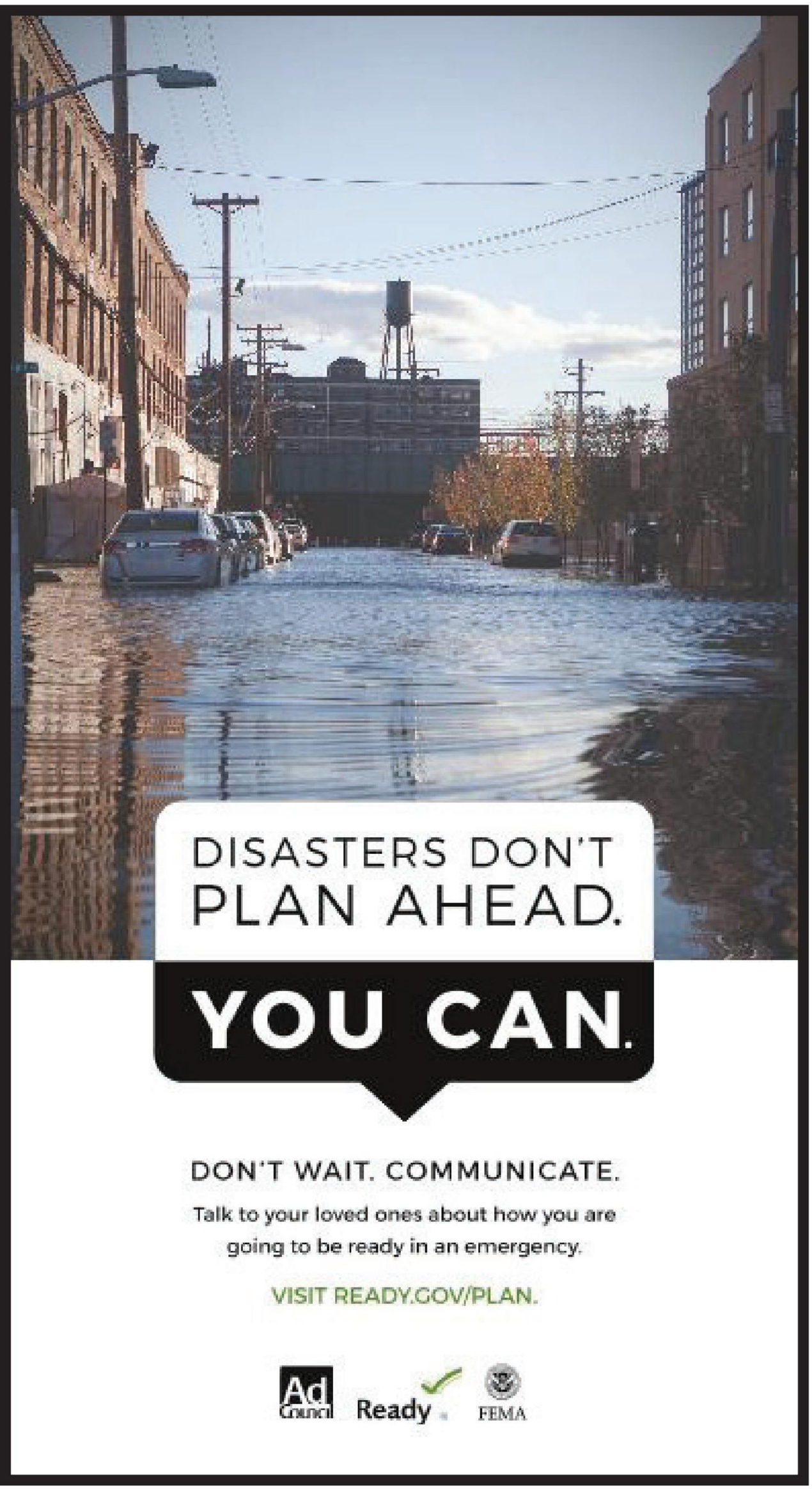

Officers hailed for daring suicide attempt rescue

BY STAN MADDUX

Two La Porte Police Officers have been recognized for saving the life of a young woman who tried jumping from the U.S. 35 overpass.

Ryan Helmecy and Taylor Atkinson were given life-saving awards during the Monday, Oct. 2, La Porte City Council meeting.

Adam Jaskowiak and Justin Dyer were commended for assisting with the situation.

On Aug. 28, police said a bystander on the bridge about 30 feet above the Norfolk Southern railroad tracks was close to the woman and begging her not to jump.

Police said the woman was at the top of a chain link security fence, which was erected along the edge of a sidewalk on the overpass a few years ago.

She was beginning to make her way down the other side of the fence when Helmecy, who was the first emergency responder to arrive, rushed over.

Helmecy said he jumped on top of the fence and grabbed the crying woman by the arm before she let go.

With nothing but the ground below her feet, police chief Paul Brettin said Helmecy held on to her until officer Atkinson climbed over the top to the other side of the fence and grabbed the woman by the arm.

Atkinson kept a tight grip on her for several minutes until the bucket on a fire truck below the overpass reached her and lowered her down to safety.

Police said Atkinson then climbed back over the fence to the pavement.

Jaskowiak called the actions of the two officers "probably one of the most heroic" in his 12 years of public service.

"They completely put their well-being aside to go over that fence and hang on," he said.

"She was begging them to let go. They would not do that," Brettin said.

Police said the woman was taken to a hospital for a mental health evaluation to begin the process of recovery.

Brettin said he's since nicknamed Atkinson "Spiderman" after the cartoon character that scales buildings with his webbed hands.

Historically, Brettin said people have jumped or threatened to jump, occasionally, from the overpass but not since the security fence was installed.

"I was quite surprised when they called me and told me that this occurred," he said.

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Your right to know!

for

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Nearly two-thirds of active Michigan voters* would be concerned if government placed these notices on websites because important information could be concealed from the public.

* EPIC-MRA 2011

MPA MICHIGAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

This newspaper supports your right to know.

Area artist to be showcased at Church of the Mediator art show

The Episcopal Church of the Mediator will offer a show of some recent works by South Bend artist, "Elizabeth Kuntz: Intuitive Drawings," from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays or by arrangement from Oct. 7-29, with a reception from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7.

Guests can meet the artist or purchase artwork in person at this Saturday's reception. Fine art prints can be purchased through www.kuntzstudio.com.

"Intuitive Drawings" includes a selection of pieces from Elizabeth's latest solo show at the Roti Roti Art Center in Buchanan titled "Visions from the Heart." Her pastel drawings on display reflect the emotions that unfold from the heart while walking the natural path of life.

She created this body of work for a newly released book "Our Radiant Heart and the Medicine Wheel", which was written by Vasilios Firippis, a Master of Tai Chi, Qigong and meditation. Since Elizabeth became his student over nine years ago, she's been on a journey of personal and spiritual growth. While learning about the ancient philosophies of the medicine wheel of the heart, she's been gaining a deeper understanding of her true nature and developing her own unique expression as an artist.

Elizabeth Kuntz is a fine artist, graphic designer and Instructor of Tai Chi and Qigong. She returned to her hometown of South Bend, Indiana, in 2019 after living for many years in Cyprus. Her most influential art teacher was her father, the late Robert Kuntz, who was a talented sculptor and woodworker. Elizabeth taps into her passion for drawing and energy flow to share beautiful expressions from her heart.

Elizabeth held her first solo exhibit in Cyprus and has since been exhibiting in the Michiana area. Her artwork has appeared in juried shows at the South Bend Museum of Art and the Midwest Museum of American Art in Elkhart. She's also a member of the Northern Indiana Pastel Society, where she recently received her second award in their group exhibition at MoonTree Studios in Plymouth, Indiana.

The Episcopal Church of the Mediator is located at 14280 Red Arrow Highway in Harbert, Michigan. For more information, call 269-369-6666.

— STAFF REPORTS

New Buffalo Library to host program on J. Edgar Hoover

The New Buffalo Township Library will host a program on longtime FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17.

Hoover professionalized the FBI and turned it into America's top law-enforcement agency. But along the way, Hoover engaged in burglaries, spied on Americans Illegally and sought to damage the civil rights movement.

Tim Moore of Lake Michigan College will be the speaker. Moore specializes in presentations about people and events in American history. His deep research and spirited style have made him a favorite at the library's Community Forum programs.

The Community Forums are sponsored by the Friends of the New Buffalo Library. They are free and open to anyone. The library is located at 33 N. Thompson Street in downtown New Buffalo. — STAFF REPORTS

HOROSCOPE

OCTOBER 5-11, 2023

AS INTERPRETED BY SANDY "STAR" BENDT

ARIES MARCH 21—APRIL 19

The energy coming your way may cause a shift in your partnerships. Whether they are changing careers or just going through an emotional issue, you will have to make adjustments to compensate for their absence, which ultimately gives you the chance to implement some of your ideas.

TAURUS APRIL 20—MAY 20

You will be itching to make some kind of move this week. Whether it is a career change for artistic reasons or a change to you daily routines for health reasons, be sure you get all the facts and do your research before you make any major moves. Change is in the air, when the leaves start falling.

GEMINI MAY 21—JUNE 21

Some blockages or obstacles will be removed this week but there will be some residual resistance from partners or the people you deal with, that may linger for the next week. Be aware that any hard issues you actively overcome now, will provide a stable building block for future relationships.

CANCER JUNE 22—JULY 22

The vibe coming your way this week, may make you feel a little lazy and cumbersome but get ready because some big shifts will be happening in the cosmos, giving you the ability to not only understand what is cluttering your life and weighing you down, but how to get passed it.

LEO JULY 23—AUGUST 22

The energy coming your way now, will have you feeling more lighthearted and factual, helping you read situations with more clarity. Even if you don't feel confident enough to make any big moves, prepare for them now. Watch and listen rather, than reacting prematurely or ending things abruptly.

VIRGO AUGUST 23—SEPTEMBER 22

Before jumping into buying something new or changing up your entire line, go back over your original plan. There is a definite shift in the cosmic vibes happening this week and things could change rapidly over the next month. So, rather than making a big move now, prepare instead.

LIBRA SEPTEMBER 23—OCTOBER 22

Your confidence may be lacking a little this week but you are definitely ready to change things up at work. There may be a shifting of protocol or a change in policy within the company, or a change in your schedule that just won't work for you. Either way you have been itching to make a new start.

SCORPIO OCTOBER 23—NOVEMBER 21

The energy radiating from the stars will be turning around this week, stirring up some of the more private areas of your life, like family and intimate partnerships. There is a lot happening on an inner level that may not be ready for primetime. So, keep the script in the editing room for now.

SAGITTARIUS NOVEMBER 22—DECEMBER 21

Be aware that it will be easy to put yourself in quite the predicament, if you don't get all the facts before getting involved in something. It's more of not being prepared or having the tools, than not wanting to do it. Be aware that motives could be misunderstood or taken out of context this week.

CAPRICORN DECEMBER 22—JANUARY 19

Be aware that there are some shifts happening with a few of the bigger players on the planetary stage and you will be feeling it. What you once held dear or though you valued most, won't seem as important this week, helping you to cut the cord on outdated items and belief systems.

AQUARIUS JANUARY 20—FEBRUARY 18

There will be a lot happening for you on a personal level, as the great benefactor and the great maleficent turn direct in your sign this week. Be aware that this is the time to visualize the life you want and focus in on that. It will be easy to go off on a mental tangent now. So, keep the crazy reeled in.

PISCES FEBRUARY 19—MARCH 20

There is a secretive quality to the energy directed at you this week, and it would be wise to keep your feelings or perceptions under wraps, until the energy is cleared at the next full moon. Pay attention to your dreams and intuitions from now until then, as they will be very clear and on point.

Almost nothing is certain when we take change and time to account. — *Dino N. Fatouros*

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Sudoku

Fill in the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9.

		1					4	
8	2		5	9		7	1	
			8	1		5		9
5			1					
	7		3			1	2	
2				8				
	9	3		5		2		
	8							
					7			

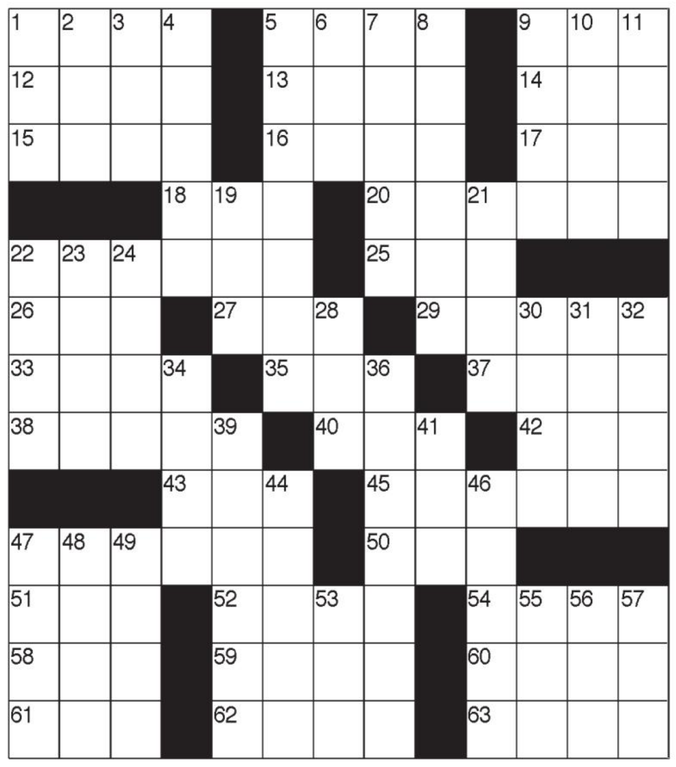
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 Pork (Fr.)
5 Larva
9 Antiballistic Missile (abbr.)
12 Scientific name (suf.)
13 Harangue
14 Mine (Sp.)
15 Boat
16 Border
17 Haw. garland
18 Tattle
20 Gila
22 Pac. island
25 "Fables in Slang" author
26 Soul or spirit (Fr.)
27 Sayings (suf.)
29 Auricular
33 Antenna
35 Give (Scot.)
37 Latite
38 Indian tea
40 No middle initial (abbr.)
42 Shipshaped
43 River rapids
45 Dark volcanic rock
47 Group of fish
50 Malt liquor
51 Antiaircraft artillery (abbr.)
52 Ananias
54 Post
58 Bikini top
59 Amalekite king
60 Assuage
61 Decrease
62 Whole (pref.)
63 Freedman in Kentish law

DOWN

1 Aunt (Sp.)
2 Mother of Hezekia
3 Top
4 Irish exclamation
5 Presa (2 words)
6 P.I. volcano
7 Emerge
8 Yearly church payment
9 Pressure
10 And
11 Birth a lamb
19 Stinging insect
21 Indiana (abbr.)
22 Trolley
23 Daughter of Zeus
24 Insert (2 words)
26 Rom. box
30 Colza
32 Berne's river
33 Roast
36 Noun-forming (suf.)
39 Guido's note (2 words)
43 Almost
46 Grape disease
47 Christmas (abbr.)
48 Gaming cubes
50 Ship of the Argonauts
53 Fluidity unit
55 Amer. Automobile Assn. (abbr.)
56 Ultimate degree
57 To (Scot.)



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Film group will screen 'In the Mood for Love' next week

The Harbor County Film Group will screen Wong Kar-wei's "In the Mood for Love," at its meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 9, at New Buffalo Township Library, with an introduction by group leader Eve Moran.

The screening will follow and the meeting will conclude with discussion led by Moran.

"In the Mood for Love" is about a man and a woman, neighbors in a Hong Kong apartment building, who suspect their respective spouses of having an affair. Something unexpected happens. Moran calls the film "visually striking and delicately mannered...with deep themes of betrayal, yearning, confused loyalty, constricted lives and, yes, love."

"In the Mood for Love" was voted the fifth-greatest film of all time by critics who participated in the British Film Institute's Sight & Sound poll for 2022.

All are welcome at the film group meetings and free popcorn will be served. The New Buffalo Township Library is located at 33 North Thompson Street in downtown New Buffalo. — STAFF REPORTS

9	5	1	6	7	3	8	4	2
8	2	6	5	9	4	7	1	3
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5	3	8	1	2	6	4	9	7
6	7	9	3	4	5	1	2	8
2	1	4	7	8	9	6	3	5
1	9	3	4	5	8	2	7	6
7	8	2	9	6	1	3	5	4
4	6	5	2	3	7	9	8	1

P	O	R	C	■	G	R	U	B	■	A	B	M
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S	H	I	P	■	A	B	U	T	■	L	E	I
■	■	■	R	A	T	■	L	I	Z	A	R	D
T	A	H	I	T	I	■	A	D	E	■	■	■
A	M	E	■	A	N	A	■	E	A	R	E	D
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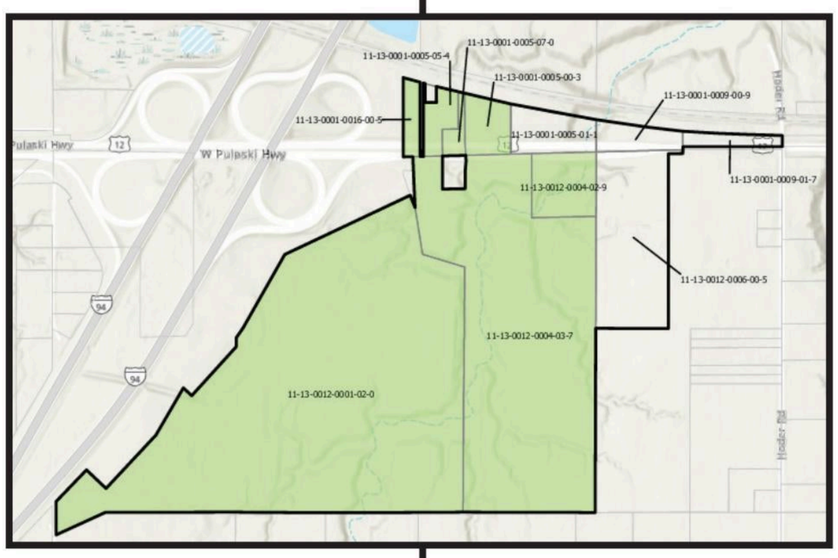
E	B	B	■	H	O	L	O	■	L	A	E	T

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF HEARING ON SPECIAL ASSESSMENT IMPROVEMENTS BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE TOWNSHIP OF NEW BUFFALO TO ALL OWNERS OF THE FOLLOWING-DESCRIBED LANDS:

Parcel ID Number:

11-13-0001-0009-01-7
11-13-0012-0006-00-5
11-13-0001-0009-00-9
11-13-0012-0004-02-9
11-13-0001-0005-01-1
11-13-0012-0004-03-7
11-13-0001-0005-00-3
11-13-0001-0005-05-4
11-13-0001-0005-07-0
11-13-0001-0016-00-5
11-13-0012-0001-02-0



TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to the provisions of Act 188, Public Acts of Michigan, 1954, as amended, the Township Board has received petitions signed by record owners of land constituting more than 50% of the total land in the proposed special assessment district comprised of the lands described above, and has tentatively declared its intention to proceed with the public improvements described as follows:

The acquisition and construction of water and sanitary sewer improvements to extend water and sewer mains along US-12 from existing Township facilities on Hoder Road west within the MDOT right of way to the I-94 interchange, together with all necessary interests in land, appurtenances and attachments thereto.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board has tentatively declared its intention to make such improvement and tentatively designated the above-described premises as a special assessment district against which at least a part of the cost of said public improvements is to be assessed.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board has caused to be prepared plans showing the public improvements, the location thereof and an estimate of the cost thereof which have been filed with the office of the Township Clerk, 17425 Red Arrow Highway, New Buffalo, Michigan, for public examination.

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board will meet on Monday, the 16th day of October, 2023, at 4:00 o'clock p.m., prevailing Eastern Time, at the Township Offices, 17425 Red Arrow Highway, New Buffalo, Michigan, to hear objections to the petitions, the public improvements and the proposed special assessment district therefor.

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Abundio Xolio Cobaxin (center) with chef Lucio and wife Paula inside Al Fuego

The sign for Al Fuego as seen from Harbor Country Drive

'Al Fuego' serving up Mexican dishes with a 'twist'

BY FRANCESCA SAGALA

A new restaurant offering Mexican dishes - with a twist - has entered New Buffalo's cuisine scene.

Al Fuego, which translates as "To the Fire," Grill and Bar opened next to Dollar General at 18529 Harbor Country Drive in August.

The location formerly housed Woodfire Grille, which also offered Mexican dishes as well as Greek ones.

Abundio Xolio Cobaxin, who owns Al Fuego with his wife, Paula, said that they previously had a restaurant in Michigan City in 2018; however, that location closed down due to the pandemic in 2019 and the business owner deciding to sell it.

"We got to know the previous owner of this location - he talked to us in March," Abundio said, adding that he said, "Hey, when are you going to buy my place?"

Noting that the process of taking it over was "really quick," Abundio said that he and Paula signed the contract and closed the deal on the business in July.

Al Fuego's menu offers breakfast, lunch and dinner items, as well as appetizers and a menu for children 12 and under. Abundio said that they'll make margaritas, mimosas and beer and wine, as well as incorporate seafood dishes, into the mix once they've gotten their liquor license.

Breakfast is mainly American cuisine, as well as the Chorizo Skillet and the Al Fuego Skillet. For lunch, there's also burgers.

As for the Mexican entrees, Abundio said that tacos have been a popular item. Memelas, which customers have likened to Mexican pizzas, contain a homemade dough, like a tortilla, and are made to order. Other popular items are the empanadas, which include homemade tortillas that are deep fried and served with chicken or beef and topped with lettuce, cheese and slasa on the side. The Enmolada is a corn tortilla covered in a mole sauce filling, with chicken or ground beef and cheese and topped with raw onions and queso fresco.

The Barbacoa De res, Abundio said, is like pot roast meat but is Mexican style and has a "different twist to it" and is served with rice and beans and in a tortilla.

"There are so many Mexican places, so we want to bring different dishes to the table," Abundio said.

Ensuring that everything is freshly prepared is also a priority, as Abundio said that gives the dishes "consistency." He credits his chef, Lucio, who's been a chef for 13 years, for adding his twist to the dishes.

"He comes up with different kinds of recipes only he can make," Abundio said.

Paula, who was a cook for 14 years, also cooks up dishes in the kitchen.

After attending Western Michigan University, Abundio was a franhcisee for IHOP for 20 years, managing several stores that included ones in Benton Harbor, Kalamazoo, Michigan City and Oswego, Illinois. He also worked for Chile's Bar and Grill and Baker's Square.

Being in the restaurant business for so many years, Abundio took on many roles, from cooking to dishwashing to managing to training other employees.

"I tried to do other things, but my passion is cooking for customers - (it) is what I enjoy more," he said.

Abundio said the feedback for Al Fuego from the community has been "great," although he said that they also have a lot of room to grow.

Special offerings, such as turkey, ham and prime rib, may occur around the holidays. Catering may also be offered in the future.

Abundio said he welcomes the positive remarks - and the not so positive ones.

"To me, it's not taking offense - to me, it's a chance to get better so it won't happen again...We try to learn from our mistakes as well," he said.

Al Fuego Grill and Bar is open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week. In the near future, Abundio hopes to launch a website and do takeout and deliveries.

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